

Testimony for Children's Mental Health
1/15/07

MSF/APA Issues:

1. Access to Dentists
2. Access to timely Neuro-psychologicals and psychologicals
3. Good therapists knowledgeable in Grief, Loss and Adoption
4. Continued post adoption services through the In-Home Family Services program

Intermountain's Adoption and Family Services Program Issues:

1. Unbundling

As the mom of a formerly SED child who is now an eloquent speaker and a productive member of society:

1. Please think about what she has to say and think about all the kids who can never come here to talk to you.
2. Please wonder about all the miracles that have happened in her life that have led her to this place and time before you.
 - a. Separation from her birth family—most importantly her twin sister
 - b. 2 group home placements and 7 other placements before finally settling into our home and aging out of the system
 - c. Years and countless hours of therapy and clinical interventions
 - d. The commitment of 3 people, Sam, myself and my husband to become family

And before you is a beautiful, vibrant young woman who will make a positive impact on our society, who today, has made an impact on the future of our most fragile citizens...our children.

Thank you for your support of Children's Mental Health Services and please continue to find as much money as you can to ensure that there are many more Sam's in this world...for that will make the world a better place.

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